oceanic in origin. The continents and oceans are peopled by rather over three thousand species of Mammalia, a number which is considerably loss than that of either birds or reptiles. It seems clear that, so far at any rate as concerns the numberK of families and genera, the mammalian fauna, of to-day in less varied than it was during the Mid - tertiary period, the heyday of mammalian life. It is rather remarkable to contrast in this way the mammals and the birds. The two <jliusst»s of the animal kingdom seem to have come into being at about the name period ; but the birds either have reached their culminating point to-day, or have not yet readied it. The Mammalia, on the oilier hand, multiplied to an extraordinary extent during the Kotvno and tho Miocene periods, and have nince dwindled. The break in most marked at the close of tho Pleistocene, and may be in part due to the direct influence of man. At present man ex^reinen «> enormous an affect, both directly and indirectly, that the future history of the Mammalia is probably foreshadowed by the, in- stances of the White Rhinoceros and the Quugga, On the other hand, the economic usefulness of the Mammalia is greater than that of any other animals; and the next moat important era in their history will be probably that of domesticity and " pre- servation/*